

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting
February 11, 2015 MINUTES
Location: Senior Center

Commissioners:	SeungWan Kang, Alexa Lyons, Jessica Tharaud, Eliza Beth
Advisory Board:	Benji Cole, Meirose Neal, Heather Byrns, Kathy Marchi, John Panica, Kirsten Touhy, Matt Green
Staff:	Jennifer O'Higgins, Jenna Olson, Tom Pomeroy

The meeting was opened at 6:40 by Chairperson, SeungWan Kang.

Motion by Jessica Tharaud to accept December minutes passed.

Motion by Eliza Beth to accept January minutes passed.

Budget Report:

Budget for the year: \$2,500

Teambuilding in December: \$100.00

Balance: \$2,400

Business:

Discussion of vice/co-chair position:

- Co-chair would help to run and plan meetings
- Co-chair would be a junior to continue as a chair in the fall
- Jessica Tharaud appointed as co-chair

Discussion of priority projects:

- Scheduling Improbable Players (acting group performing pieces about substance abuse) at Newton high schools
- Posters/ information cards:
 - Depression/ suicide awareness/ help
 - Posters with positive messages at schools
- To Write Love on Her Arms: Storytellers program on mental health
 - Goal of organization: opening conversation on mental health issues
 - Ten-week curriculum and two community events
 - Possible project for next year (applications in fall and running October-December)
- MEDA (Multiservice Eating Disorder Association) Walk
 - Joining walk or helping give MEDA's resources to Newton schools
- Communication between Youth Commission and other Newton youth serving agencies
 - Summit/conference for youth leaders and groups in Newton (or ongoing series of events)
 - Event could also help raise awareness of the Youth Commission for future commissioners
 - Introduction, guest speakers, breaking into groups with different focuses (student government, mental health, substance abuse)
 - Planning smaller event for this year, or larger conference for next year

- Meeting with invited clubs/ organizations with leadership activities and ideas for collaboration
 - Including clubs at Newton North and South as well as possibly groups at private high schools or other outside groups
- Helping youth involvement:
 - Helping youth get involved, especially students who might not be a part of a lot of clubs or might not be excelling academically
 - Creating a resource list for guidance counselors or teachers to help students find clubs, projects, or open fun activities
- Helping support activities hosted by mental health clubs at Newton high schools
 - Aware: looking for speakers for a mental health day
- Creating application organizations can submit for requests. Youth Commission can fund smaller existing projects
- Connection to the Leadership Center presented at January meeting by Claudia Wu

Next meeting date is March 11th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alexa Lyons, Commissioner and Secretary